

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 179

By Cohen

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Rabbi Harry K. Danziger on being named President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable religious leaders who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is Rabbi Harry K. Danziger of Memphis's Temple Israel; he was recently named President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, making him the first Southerner to lead the world's largest rabbinical organization; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Danziger, who has served as Temple Israel's Rabbi Emeritus since 2000, will be installed for a two-year term at the Central Conference of American Rabbis' annual meeting in Houston, Texas; and

WHEREAS, the Central Conference of American Rabbis represents about 1,800 Reform rabbis who belong to the most progressive and, in the United States, the largest of Judaism's three main branches; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Danziger harbors a deep love for learning which is exhibited through his extensive educational background. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from the University of Cincinnati, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa, in 1961; earned a Master of Arts degree in Hebrew Letters from and was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 1964; and holds honorary Doctorates of Divinity from Rhodes College in Memphis and from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Danziger has also served as a faculty member of the prestigious Rhodes College in Memphis since 1989; and

WHEREAS, this dedicated professional served as a rabbi at Temple Israel between 1966 and 2000. Between 1969-72, he stood as Rabbi for Congregation B'nai Israel in Monroe, Louisiana, and was Associate Rabbi of Temple Oheb Shalom in Baltimore, Maryland from 1972-73 before returning to Temple Israel in 1974 as Associate Rabbi; since 1966 he has also been a visiting rabbi in Cleveland and Clarksdale, Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, seen as a leader by many, Rabbi Danziger has served as a member on numerous boards, including those of the Union for Reform Judaism, the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Metropolitan Interfaith Association, the Memphis Jewish Federation, the Churches and Social Services Fund, and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, and is an honorary Lifetime Advisor of the National Federation of Temple Youth, Southern Region; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Danziger is a member of the Task Force on Ethical Review of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and was a member of the Superintendent's Advisory Committee of the Memphis City Schools; and

WHEREAS, this thoughtful leader has served with distinction as a Rabbinic Adviser of the Southern Federation of Temple Youth, Jewish Chaplain for the University of Tennessee Medical Units, and President of the Crosscut Club of Memphis, the Family Service of Memphis, Planned Parenthood of Memphis, and the Southwest Association of Reform Rabbis; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Harry Danziger has served with merit as Chairman of the Resolutions Committee of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the National Commission on Rabbinic-Congregation Relations of Reform Judaism, and the Rabbinic Advisory Council of the Henry S. Jacobs Camp; and was Jewish Co-Chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Memphis Roundtable; and

WHEREAS, this remarkable man frequently imparts his wisdom as a speaker and panelist in programs involving interfaith relations, community betterment, presentations on Judaism and life situations throughout the community, and is a regular panelist on "What Is Your Faith?" on WREG Television in Memphis; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades and recognition, Rabbi Danziger was selected by *Memphis Magazine* as one of “Who’s Who in Memphis,” and the National Conference for Community and Justice honored Rabbi Danziger with its Humanitarian Award in 1998; and

WHEREAS, in his new role as President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Rabbi Danziger will work to help rabbis personally and professionally, as well as serve as the organization’s spokesman; and

WHEREAS, his priorities as President include advocating for the elderly and poor, protecting civil liberties, and issuing a new prayer book to replace the thirty-year-old prayer book currently used by 1.5 million Reformed Jews; and

WHEREAS, this astounding rabbi is known for his ability to relate to all ages, his sense of humor, and his memorable sermons; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Harry Danziger is an extremely giving person who often reaches out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and he epitomizes the ideal of the consummate religious official, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Danziger is deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Rabbi Danziger is fortunate to share love and companionship with his wife, Jeanne Chaban Danziger, and their three children and three grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Rabbi Danziger is wholly committed to the noble precepts of faithful service handed down by generations of dedicated rabbis; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Rabbi Harry K. Danziger upon his being named President of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, commend him for his many years of devoted service to his congregation and his community, and extend to him our best wishes for continued success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

